

Council
of the National Science Centre
KR.0003.110.2018

RESOLUTION NO 110/2018
BY THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE

of 8 November 2018

**on the terms and regulations of the UWERTURA 3 call for proposals
for fellowships in foreign research teams
using ERC grants**

Pursuant to Article 20 (1) (2) and Article 21 of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 947, as amended), the Council of the National Science Centre lays down the terms and regulations of the **UWERTURA 3 call for proposals for fellowships in foreign research teams using ERC grants**, for persons intending to apply for funding of research projects at the European Research Council (ERC). The objective of the call is to support researchers at Polish institutions in successful applications for the European research funding and to increase their share among the ERC grantees. Fellowships at research teams carrying out research supported by the ERC shall improve the research profiles of the candidates applying for ERC grants, offer them the opportunity to gain knowledge and valuable experience of the international grant system. The call is launched in cooperation with the European Research Council (ERC) pursuant to the *Fellowship Schemes to Visit ERC Grantees*.

1. Terms of entry

1.1. Proposals for funding of the fellowships may be submitted by entities referred to in Article 7 (1) (1), (2) and (4) – (6) of the Act on Higher Education and Science of 20 July 2018 (Journal of 2018, item 1668), hereinafter referred to as the “applicants”, for whom the funding of the fellowship will not constitute state aid, i.e.:

- a) universities,
- b) federations of science and HE institutions,
- c) research institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences,
- d) research institutes, and
- e) international research institutes established pursuant to separate provisions and operating in the Republic of Poland.

1.2. Only proposals in which the fellowship candidate:

- a) has at least a doctorate degree;



- b) has been employed on the basis of a contract of employment by the research institution acting as the applicant¹;
- c) has conducted a research project funded or recommended for funding under calls for proposals announced and carried out by the NCN as a principal investigator;
- d) has not been an ERC grantee;
- e) shall present a project description he/she intends to submit as a principal investigator to an ERC call;
- f) shall plan a fellowship² of 3 to 6 months at a selected foreign research team using an ERC grant, starting on 1 September 2019 at the earliest and on 31 December 2020 at the latest³ and
- g) shall name the ERC grantee hosting the fellowship and present a document confirming a fellowship approval by the ERC grantee and authorised representative of the research institution hosting the ERC grant,

shall be considered under the call.

1.3. Under the call, proposals may be submitted in which the applicant shall require that the fellowship candidate submit, within 18 months of concluding the fellowship, a proposal for an ERC grant, in which he/she acts a principal investigator for a project to be implemented at a Polish host institution.

1.4. Under the call, proposals may be submitted that involve basic research within the meaning of Article 4 (2) (1) of the Act on Higher Education and Science of 20 July 2018 in any of the research disciplines listed as NCN panels on the date of announcing the call for proposals.

2. Forms of funding

2.1. The applicant shall be allocated:

- a) flat-rate funds of PLN 15,000 per month, multiplied by the percentage correction rate set for a given country, according to the values set forth in the **Annex No 1** to this Resolution, to cover the costs of staying at a foreign research institution hosting the fellowship of the person specified in the proposal;
- b) flat-rate funds of PLN 1,000 to PLN 10,000, depending on the distance between the place of residence and a foreign research institution, according to the rates set forth in **Annex No 2** to this Resolution, to cover the cost of return travel to the research institution hosting the foreign fellowship of the person specified in the proposal.

2.2. Where a fellowship candidate referred to in point 1.2 fails to meet the obligation to apply for an ERC grant referred to in point 1.3, the funds awarded to the applicant shall be returned in their entirety.

¹ The condition must be met on the last day of submitting the proposals under the call, i.e. on 15 March 2019.

² The fellowship cannot be carried out in Poland.

³ The fellowship may be implemented in stages, provided that it is concluded within 12 months from the start date.

3. Submission of proposals

- 3.1. The data required in the proposal and annexes thereto under the UWERTURA 3 call are laid down in **Annex No 3** hereto.
- 3.2. A complete proposal together with required Annexes, including a confirmation of submitting the proposal bearing a qualified electronic signature or the document's scan with the signature in the signatory's own handwriting must be sent in an electronic format by 15 March 2019 via the ZSUN/OSF (Zintegrowany System Usług dla Nauki /Obsługa Strumieni Finansowania) system at www.osf.opi.org.pl.
- 3.3. The procedure described herein is not an administrative procedure within the meaning of the Administrative Procedure Code of 14 June 1960 (Journal of Laws of 2017, item 1257) and the provisions thereof apply pursuant to Article 33 (4) of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010.

4. Evaluation of proposals

- 4.1. In the evaluation of proposals under the UWERTURA 3 call, the following criteria shall be taken into account:
- a) whether or not the proposals fulfils the criterion of basic research referred to in point 1.4 hereof,
 - b) research achievements of the fellowship candidate,
 - c) evaluation of the quality of research to be performed under the research project as regards the likelihood of receiving funding under an ERC call, and
 - d) appropriate choice of the ERC grantee and the host institution hosting the fellowship.
- 4.2. Proposals are subject to an eligibility check and merit-based evaluation.
- 4.3. Eligibility check is performed by the Coordinators.
- 4.4. A proposal may be rejected on formal grounds also at a later stage of evaluation.
- 4.5. Eligibility check consists in verification of the proposal's completeness and verification whether the proposal meets all eligibility criteria set out in the call announcement.
- 4.6. Merit-based evaluation is open only to proposals approved as eligible by the Coordinator.
- 4.7. Merit-based evaluation is conducted by the Expert Teams.
- 4.8. Proposals undergo a double merit-based evaluation:
- 1) Stage I: preliminary evaluation takes place on the basis of information provided in the proposal and annexes thereto. It involves separate reviews by two members of the Expert Team and is subsequently endorsed by the entire Expert Team. Proposals are qualified to the second stage of review on the basis of their position on the ranking list, with the reservation that the total amount of planned expenditures on the proposals qualified to the second stage cannot be higher than the double value of the funds allocated by the NCN Council to the call for proposals.



2) Stage II: the Expert Team members interview the fellowship candidate in English and determine the final proposal evaluation on the basis of individual reviews, interview results and analysis and discussion of the proposals.

4.8.1. the Expert Teams, the following terms shall apply:

- a) percentage contribution of individual criteria to the individual evaluation of proposal and nature of such evaluation are laid down in **Annex No 4** hereto;
- b) the proposal is given a score whose function is advisory and constitutes a point of departure for a discussion on the final grade;
- c) the decision of an Expert Team on the final grade of a proposal is based on its analysis and discussion of the legitimacy of funding the proposal against other proposals reviewed under the call;
- d) the final grade of the proposal at a given stage of merit-based evaluation is its position on a long list after the first stage or a short list after the second stage, both lists compiled by the Expert Team;
- e) a proposal which has been given score of zero or “no” by a consulted decision of the Expert Team in any criterion subject to evaluation cannot be recommended for funding;
- f) a proposal which has been found to fail any of the requirements set out in the call announcement by a consulted decision of the Expert Team cannot be recommended for funding.

4.9. The Expert Team recommends for funding proposals in which the total amount of requested funding does not exceed the limit set by the NCN Council for the call.

5. Selection of experts

5.1. Pursuant to Article 18 (7) of the Act on the National Science Centre, the Council shall select Expert Team members responsible for the evaluation of proposals submitted under the call. In the selection process, the Council shall apply the following terms:

- a) candidates shall be selected among eminent Polish and foreign researchers, including former winners of NCN calls, considering their research achievements and experience in evaluating research projects under the ERC calls and experience in carrying out research projects funded on a competitive basis in Poland and abroad;
- b) candidates shall be evaluated on the basis of information included in available bibliometric sources for tracking researchers' achievements, mainly Web of Science as well as Scopus and other sources specific for the nature of the respective research domains and on available lists of individuals who have been awarded funds under completed domestic and foreign calls for research projects.

5.2. Members of the Expert Teams shall be selected pursuant to the rules laid down in the Terms of Forming and Appointing Expert Teams of the National Science Centre attached to NCN Council Resolution No 26/2018 of 8 March 2018 and in the Code of Conduct of the Members of the Council and Experts of the National Science Centre attached to NCN Council Resolution No 22/2017 of 9 February 2017.

6. Funding decision

- 6.1. The call shall be concluded and its results announced on 13 September 2019.
- 6.2. The results of the call shall be published in the ZSUN/OSF system and dispatched electronically by way of a decision of the NCN Director.
- 6.3. Where an electronic document has not been collected, the decision of the NCN Director shall be deemed to have been delivered within 14 days of the date of being made available.
- 6.4. In the event of breach of the call procedure or other formal infringements, the applicant may appeal against the decision of the NCN Director with the Appeal Committee of the NCN Council within 14 days of the decision's delivery.
- 6.5. The Appeal Committee of the NCN Council shall decide on the appeal within 3 months of the date on which the appeal was lodged.

7. Funding procedure

- 7.1. The funds for the fellowship recommended for funding shall be awarded funding pursuant to a decision of the NCN Director.
- 7.2. The funds shall be transferred to the entity acting as the applicant pursuant to a funding agreement between the entity and the National Science Centre.
- 7.3. The agreement shall lay down:
 - a) the start and end date of the fellowship and its terms,
 - b) the amount of funds awarded for the fellowship and the manner in which the funds will be disbursed by the National Science Centre,
 - c) a statement by the applicant requiring the person implementing the fellowship under the UWERTURA 3 call to submit a ERC grant proposal to be implemented at a Polish host institution within 18 months of concluding the fellowship, and
 - d) the procedure of settling the fellowship.
- 7.4. The applicant shall submit a draft funding decision with the NCN, including breakdown of costs and shall perform other actions requested in the decision within the deadline specified in the decision. Failure to meet the deadline shall be tantamount to resigning from the execution of the funding agreement.

8. Additional provisions

A person may be awarded funding of a fellowship under the UWERTURA call for proposals only once.

9. Amount of funding

The Council of the National Science Centre establishes the amount of financial resources allocated for the fellowships under the UWERTURA 3 call for proposals as **PLN 1 million**.



NARODOWE CENTRUM NAUKI

prof. dr hab. Janusz Janeczek
Chair of the Council
of the National Science Centre